

Help us shape the future

of North Highline



Working together

- ▶ **In March 2006, King County, Burien, and Seattle launched an effort to work together with the community to find an annexation solution for North Highline.**

Why make a change?

- ▶ **A patchwork of unincorporated urban areas makes it hard for the county to provide services efficiently.**
- ▶ **Cities have already annexed business areas that generate high taxes, leaving the county with limited resources to serve neighborhoods.**

Why make a change?

- ▶ **The county uses regional dollars to cover the cost of local urban services.**
- ▶ **In the long term, regional services will suffer if things stay the same.**

Why make a change?

- ▶ **Services in North Highline have already deteriorated:**
 - **loss of recreation services**
 - **more and higher fees**
 - **loss of human services such as childcare subsidies**
- ▶ **North Highline needs more—and deserves better—services**

Why annexation?

- ▶ **Cities are better equipped than the county to provide urban services such as:**
 - **public safety**
 - **parks**
 - **youth and senior programs**
- ▶ **Joining a city preserves the quality of urban services in unincorporated areas.**

Why annexation?

- ▶ **Allows the county to reinvest in regional services such as:**
 - **regional parks**
 - **public health**
 - **regional human services**
- ▶ **Meets the objectives of the state Growth Management Act and countywide planning policies**

What's happened so far?

- ▶ **1992**—Countywide planning policies are developed jointly by King County and cities as required by state law. The policies call for all urban areas to be part of a city by 2012.
- ▶ **2003**—Countywide summit with cities underlines importance of urban areas becoming part of a city.

What's happened so far?

- ▶ **2004**—Burien and Seattle both start looking into the cost of annexing all or part of North Highline.
- ▶ **2005**—King County Annexation Initiative increases outreach efforts in North Highline.

What's happened so far?

- ▶ **2005-2006—North Highline Unincorporated Area Council completes governance study.**
 - **Finds incorporation not financially feasible**
 - **Recommends annexation to Burien**

What's happened so far?

- ▶ **2005—Burien City Council studies annexation.**
 - **Votes to delay decision until 2006**
 - **Calls for more outreach in both Burien and North Highline**

What's happened so far?

- ▶ **2006**—County and cities recognize that all parties need to work together with the community and service providers to find an annexation solution.
- ▶ **March 2006**—County and cities launch collaborative effort.

What are our goals?

- ▶ **Achieve PAA* designation of the entire North Highline Unincorporated Area.**
- ▶ **Establish process to engage residents in PAA and annexation decisions.**
- ▶ **Establish target dates for PAA designation and annexation.**

***PAA = Potential Annexation Area**

What are our goals?

- ▶ **Ensure an open process: share information among jurisdictions and residents.**
- ▶ **Identify options for resolving service transition issues.**

What are our values?

- ▶ **Preserve neighborhoods.**
- ▶ **Use physical boundaries when possible:**
 - **roads**
 - **bodies of water**
 - **land contours**

What are our values?

- ▶ **Create and preserve logical service areas.**
- ▶ **Prevent irregular boundaries and unincorporated “islands.”**
- ▶ **Recognize political, financial, and social implications for North Highline and the annexing city or cities.**

What's our schedule?

- ▶ **July 2006**—county and cities recommend PAA* boundary (either whole area to one city or a division between the two cities)
- ▶ **By December 2006**—city council(s) create PAA(s), leaving no neighborhoods behind

***PAA = Potential Annexation Area**

What's our schedule?

- ▶ **By November 2007**—vote or other form of citizen decision
- ▶ **By March 2009**—entire North Highline area is annexed

Key players

- ▶ **Cities, county, and community**—develop and evaluate annexation options
- ▶ **City councils**—designate PAA(s)* and hold elections
- ▶ **Voters who live in the PAA(s)**—make the final decision

*PAA = Potential Annexation Area

What happens next?

- ▶ **May 2006—Community open houses**
- ▶ **June 2006—Meetings with current service providers (fire, library, sewer)**
- ▶ **July 2006—County and cities recommend annexation boundaries to city councils and community**

What happens next?

- ▶ **August 2006**—public meeting to review recommended annexation boundary
- ▶ **Fall 2006**—city councils review and adopt PAAs*; public hearings inform council decisions.
- ▶ **By November 2007**—community votes on annexation

*PAA = Potential Annexation Area

How you can help

- ▶ **Fill out the comment sheets**
- ▶ **Tell your comments to a court reporter**
- ▶ **Talk with your neighbors; encourage participation in open houses**
- ▶ **Make your voice heard at city council meetings**